P21691.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

plicant

Takashi SHIMOJIMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2171

Serial No.

09/988,240

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

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November 19, 2001

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FILE MANAGEMENT METHOD AND

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APPARATUS

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Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, the Applicants hereby call the following document to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 8-161210 to Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp. (NTT), published June 21, 1996. An English language abstract of the same is provided.

A copy of the above-noted document is attached and has been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the

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Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm

consideration of these documents.

Applicants also call the following copending, commonly assigned application to the

Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/123,544 to TAN et al., which filed on July 28, 1998.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the specification, claims, and

drawings of the above-mentioned co-pending application is attached hereto. The Examiner

is, none-the-less, encouraged to review the file wrapper of this U.S. patent application at the

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. If for any reason the Examiner cannot locate the

application, the Applicants will provide any requested materials, if possible.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the

undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

Takashi SHIMOJIMA et al.

103363

Bruce H. Bernstein

Reg. No. 29,027

February 19, 2002 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.

1941 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191

(703) 716-1191

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